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New Haven. New burying ground.

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE,

APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO THE CONDITION

OF THE

NEW HAVEN BURYING GROUND,

AND

TO PROPOSE A PLAN

FOR

ITS IMPROVEMENT.

NEW HAVEN:

PRINTED BY B. L. HAMLEN.

1839.

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REPORT.

THE committee appointed to take into consideration the present state of the Burying Ground, and the best mode of protecting and improving it, beg leave to report :

That deeming the subject committed to their charge of great importance, and of deep interest to this community, the committee have held frequent meetings and consultations, made many inquiries, and endeavored to collect such information, as should enable them to discharge their duties in a manner satisfactory to themselves and the public. As the result of their deliberations, the committee would respectfully submit for the consideration of the proprietors and the citizens of New Haven, a brief history of the burying ground, a view of its present condition, and suggest a plan for its protection and improvement.

HISTORY.

The history of the New Haven burying ground is contained in the entries made from time to time upon its records, which have been carefully kept from the beginning.

From the first entry on the records it appears, that the citizens of New Haven, having experienced many inconveniences from the want of room in the old burying ground, situated on the public square, now occupied by the State House, and several unsuccessful attempts having been made to obtain another :—

The Hon. James Hillhouse, with the aid of thirty one other citizens,* purchased, September 9, 1796, near the northwest corner of the original town plot, a field of six acres, which was soon afterwards increased to ten acres, with a view to obtain a burial place, in the words of the record, “ *larger, better arranged for the accommodation of families, and by its retired situation, better calculated to impress the mind with a solemnity becoming the repository of the dead.*”

This field was levelled and enclosed ; and each of the thirty two subscribers agreed to pay fourteen dollars for the purchase money and expenses.

* The names of the thirty two purchasers are as follows : James Hillhouse, Isaac Mills, Elizur Goodrich, Simeon Baldwin, Joseph Drake, Timothy Phelps, Daniel Barnes, Titus Street, Jonathan Mir, Elias Beers, Nathan Beers, Joseph Darling, John Nicoll, Roger Sherman, Joseph Bradley, Abraham Bishop, Pierpont Edwards, David Daggett, Isaac Beers, Nathaniel Fitch, Jeremiah Atwater, Obadiah Hotchkiss, John Miles 2d, Jonathan Ingersoll, Jeremiah Townsend, Henry Daggett, I. & K. Townsend, Stephen Alling, Gilbert Totten, Frederick Hunt, Mary Hillhouse.

The proprietors petitioned the General Assembly, held in New Haven, October, 1797, for an act of incorporation,* which was granted, in the words following :

"At a General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, holden at New Haven on the second Thursday of October, A. D. 1797 :

"Upon the petition of the Proprietors of the New Burying Ground, by their committee James Hillhouse, Joseph Drake, and Isaac Mills, shewing to this Assembly that they have caused to be purchased ten acres of land situated in the City of New Haven, adjoining Grove street, bounded south on said Grove street, east on second quarter road so called, west on Plainfield road, and north on the heirs of Nathan Mansfield deceased, for the purpose of making the same into a burying ground, and praying to be incorporated as per petition on file.

"Whereupon it is resolved by this Assembly, that said Proprietors and their associates be, and they are hereby ordained and constituted a body corporate and politic, for the purpose herein mentioned, and shall be known by the name of "*The Proprietors of the New Burying Ground in New Haven,*" and by that name they and their heirs shall have succession, be capable of of suing and being sued, and shall have power at their meetings legally warned, to make such rules and regulations as they shall judge proper, for the well ordering and managing said burying ground, and selling, conveying, and making good title to the lots, for the purpose therein expressed. And there shall be a Clerk who shall keep and make true entries and records of all proceedings of said corporation, who shall upon any five of said proprietors making application, warn all meetings, by advertising the same at least three days before the same is to be holden, in one or more of the newspapers published in the City of New Haven, and said proprietors may tax themselves to defray all necessary expenses in the well ordering of the same, and Simeon Baldwin, Esq. shall be the first Clerk of said corporation, who shall continue in office until another is chosen ; and in case of the death or absence of the Clerk, any five of said proprietors may warn a meeting as aforesaid. And it is further resolved, that said Burying Ground shall forever remain and be used as, and for a burying ground, and for that purpose only—and the same and each

* The idea of securing these lots as a sacred property to each family, was suggested to Mr. Hillhouse by the following circumstance. He had contemplated making a family burying ground on his own property. But on a visit to an estate formerly occupied by one branch of his family, he noticed with regret, that when the property passed out of the possession of the family, the family burying ground went with the rest into the hands of strangers, and the descendants had no control over the graves of their relatives and ancestors, which, though honorably protected in this instance, were liable, in other hands, to be neglected, injured, or entirely obliterated in the progress of time. To secure to his own, and to the families of his fellow citizens, a sacred and inviolable burial place, he conceived and executed the design of the New Haven burying ground.

lot thereof shall forever hereafter be wholly exempt from the payment of taxes, and all liabilities to be sold therefor, or for any debt whatever due from said corporation or any individual proprietor thereof—and any person or body politic, their heirs, successors, or assigns, who shall be the proprietor or owner of a lot which now is, or hereafter shall be located or laid out in said burying ground, shall be a legal member of said corporation, and entitled to one vote for every lot he or they shall own or possess, provided always that said body politic or corporation shall not be capable of holding any other lands or real estate than said described premises, hereby appropriated and set apart for a burying ground.

“A true copy of Record examined by

“SAMUEL WYLLYS, *Secretary.*”

A true copy of record, as registered in the first volume of the records of the burying ground.

Certified by ELISHA MUNSON, *Clerk.*

Immediately after the act of incorporation was passed, a meeting of the proprietors was held, Oct. 30, 1797, and a committee* was appointed to ascertain the expenses, and to set a valuation on the lots, that they might be sold according to their actual cost, and also “to ornament said burying ground with such kinds, and so many rows of trees, as they shall judge advisable.”

At the same meeting, James Hillhouse was requested to convey the fee to the proprietors, which he had till then, held in trust. Also a standing committee† was appointed to convey lots to purchasers, and directed to cause the name of each proprietor to be painted on the railing of his lot, with the number.

At the same time, lots were *gratuitously* set apart, viz: one to the President and Fellows of Yale College, one to each of the Ecclesiastical Societies then existing, one for the burial of strangers dying in the city, three for the poor who should die not owning lots, and one to people of color.

At a subsequent meeting, Nov. 3, 1798, it was voted, that the committee of conveyance present to the minister of each Ecclesiastical Society, a deed of the lot adjoining the lot already presented to his respective society; and to President Dwight the lot adjoining the lot already presented to Yale College; and a lot next President Dwight's to Professor Meigs, who had aided in surveying and laying out the ground.

* Joseph Drake, James Hillhouse, Isaac Mills, Elias Shipman, Simeon Baldwin.

† Isaac Beers, Simeon Baldwin, Elizur Goodrich, Isaac Mills, Josiah Meigs.

The Committee previously appointed to ascertain expenses, reported at the meeting Nov. 3, 1798 :

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| Expenses already incurred, | £380 |
| Estimated expenses of fences, painting, and planting, | 120 |

Making the whole cost of the lots, £500 or \$1666 66

This estimate included only the lots then laid out in that part of the original ground, extending to the second cross alley, making in all, exclusive of those already set apart for the objects before mentioned, 176 lots, which were valued at such prices, from \$5 to \$10 as would cover the cost.

April 15, 1799, a committee* was appointed to open a subscription for the purpose of finishing a new range of lots ten deep, in continuation of the present tiers northward; and to procure a hearse.

Sept. 8, 1800. Lot No. 47, a triangular piece of ground, lying northwest of the lots before mentioned, and not divided, was deeded to the city, (the right of passage being reserved to the proprietors,) to be occupied as a common burying ground, in the same manner as the old burying ground had been. Also another lot (No. 1, in 5th tier) was appropriated for the burial of strangers; and lot No. 3 in 5th tier, for the burial of colored people, not otherwise provided for.

At this period, it seems only a part of the lots had been sold, and of course the proprietors were in arrears, and were probably unwilling to make further advances, either to lay out and improve new grounds, or to keep in repair those already laid out. The affairs of the Corporation were in a low and discouraging state. At this crisis, James Hillhouse, who had incurred most of the expenses, came forward and offered to take the whole upon himself; to pay off the debts, make the contemplated improvements, and hold the property until it should be sold at cost to pay the whole expense.

We accordingly find that the committee were directed to convey to James Hillhouse, Esq., all the lots not otherwise disposed of, now complete, or to be completed, not including the alleys and passages: also to lease to him the ground north, not laid out, to be improved by him, till wanted for burial lots: "*On condition* that he release and discharge the proprietors from all claims or debts due to him or others, on account of expenditures on the burying ground; and that he assume the annuity due to Mrs. Mix, and discharge the residue of the purchase money; and that

* Elias Shipman, James Hillhouse, Joseph Darling, Joseph Drake, Jeremiah Townsend, Titus Street, William Powell.

he engage to complete the same at his own expense, according to the plan proposed, and make a pale fence on the sides, and a slat fence in the rear thereof."

From this time, Sept. 8, 1800, for a period of fifteen years, the whole seems to have been managed by Mr. Hillhouse, as there is no record of any meeting of the proprietors, till June 8, 1815.

Mr. Hillhouse, in these transactions, encumbered himself with an expense of about \$1400, for which he received the prices of the lots sold from time to time, at cost; which slow and unprofitable method of payment did not reimburse him, till nearly thirty years after, and probably then not in full.

At the meeting June 8, 1815, a committee* was appointed to ascertain what repairs were necessary, and to estimate the expense. This committee did not report till June 13, 1817.

There was a meeting June 13, 1817, at which the committee reported, in favor of numbering and lettering the lots anew; of appointing a suitable person to superintend repairs; and of laying a tax to meet the expenses which were estimated at \$25. A tax was accordingly levied on the proprietors at 25, 50, and 75 cts. a lot according to its situation; and a committee† was appointed to repair the fences, and "at their discretion to cause the poplar trees to be removed, and such number of other trees as they may judge expedient to be set out in lieu thereof." The committee caused one half of the poplars to be removed, but it is not known that they set out any trees in lieu thereof. The tax above mentioned being found insufficient, an additional tax was laid Jan. 15, 1818, from 50 cts. to \$2 on each lot.

These are the principal facts in the history of the original ten acres.

PURCHASE OF THE EIGHT ACRES.

An important addition was made to the original lot Sept. 10, 1814. The ground to that date had been bounded on the west by what was then called Plainfield road, which ran diagonally (near the center) across the present ground, from the southwest corner of the 5th tier to the road which now passes from the lock northward on the east side of the canal.

It appears from a paper addressed "to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council of the City of New Haven:"

"That on the 10th of September, 1814, all the lots in the new burying ground having been sold, and great distress for want of

* Stephen Twining, Elisha Manson, John Skinner.

† Obadiah Hotchkiss, Luther Bradley, John Skinner, Anthony P. Sanford.

burying ground having been experienced; thirty two citizens* purchased of Henry Daggett, Esq., a lot of eight acres adjoining west on Plainfield road, and opposite to the new burying ground."

"The price of the lot was \$1600, payable in five years, with annual interest; and the lot was by direction of the purchasers, and in trust for them, conveyed to Jonathan E. Porter, Esq., as their agent for preparing said ground for sale of the lots for payment of all dues; and a provision was made in the deed, that any surplus of money or saving in the concern, should be *applied to the future repairs of the entire ground.*"

The paper further represents: "That in this process it was necessary to shut up the front of Plainfield road, and to open a road in lieu of it, on the west of the whole ground, conforming as nearly as might be in width and course with York street." This road is now called Ashmun street.

"Connected with this road, it was necessary to open a street east and west so as to join Plainfield road again [near the lock], and thence extend to the continuation of College street," now called Prospect street. "This last arrangement rendered the plan of the whole ground complete, by making it a square surrounded by highways." The canal has since cut off the north-east corner.

The expense of enclosing, levelling, and preparing the ground was \$926 91, which added to the purchase money before mentioned, \$1600, and \$253 50 paid for land bought of Elizur Goodrich and Glover Mansfield for the road, with interest, amounted to \$2840 as the total debit against the proprietors.

"As the highways aforesaid were of real value to the city, and as the city had no Potter's field; and as room might be wanting for the removal of monuments from the old ground:" It was proposed that the city take the rear of the burying ground, being about three acres, and pay for the same together with the roads, turnpiking, &c. \$840: which would reduce the debt to \$2000, and leave 138 lots to be sold at different rates from \$3 to \$25, to pay off the same.

PURCHASE OF THREE ACRES BY THE CITY, AND REMOVAL OF MONUMENTS.

This proposal was subsequently adopted by the city, in the transactions of which a full account is to be found in a pamphlet

* James Hillhouse, Simeon Baldwin, Stephen Trining, Isaac Mills, Gad Peck, Nathaniel Rossiter, Roger Sherman, Nathan Beers, Abraham Bradley 3d, D. L. De Forest, Hezekiah Hoar, Charles Sherman, Henry Daggett, James Goodrich, George Hoadly, Jared Bradley, Reuben Rice, William Sherman, Jun., Joel Root, Elias Shipman, Amos Troubridge, Lucius Atwater, Henry Daggett, Jun., William Hotchkiss, William Brintnall, Lockwood De Forest, Wm. W. Woolsey, Seth P. Staples, Benjamin R. Fowler, Wm. Leffingwell, Abm. Bishop, Abel Burritt.

published Jan. 1822, entitled "Proceedings of the city of New Haven in the removal of monuments from its ancient burying ground, and the opening of a new ground for burial."

From which it appears, that, at a court of Common Council for the city of New Haven, holden Oct. 27, 1820, a committee* was appointed to take into consideration the situation of the ancient burying ground:—who reported "that said ground was in a condition of total neglect, and going to ruin, in a manner which they deemed inconsistent with the religious and moral sense of this community, and indicating a want of decent respect for the memory of the dead." Among other suggestions, the committee expressed the opinion, "that the greatest respect which can be paid to the memory of the dead, and the feelings of the survivors, would be shown by the erection of a solid and permanent wall around the ancient ground." "But if the prevailing opinion of the citizens shall be opposed to any enclosure of the ancient ground," they suggested the removal of the monuments to the new ground.

This report was accepted by the Common Council, and it was voted, "that it is expedient that measures be adopted for the removal of the monuments; for the erection of a common monument in the rear of the Centre Church; for obtaining a suitable burial place for Yale College; and also a public burying ground to be the property of the city of New Haven;" and a committee† was appointed to devise the ways and means of accomplishing these objects.

This committee reported the facts before stated, respecting the three acres and roads proposed to be sold to the city for \$840;—that this tract would be sufficient for all the purposes of a burial ground for the city and for Yale College;—and that the expense of enclosing and levelling the same, together with the removal of the monuments and other contingencies, would be \$560 more, making all the expense of purchasing and removal, \$1400. A portion of this expense the committee thought "might be raised by subscription," "but considering the frequency of addresses to the justice or charity of individuals, and the great inequality of contributions in this form," they "forbore to recommend the raising of any monies by subscription," and expressed their opinion that the proposed removal of the monuments, and the purchase of a public burying ground, were "a common concern, which the city ought to assume."

The report was accepted, and the court of Common Council *unanimously* recommended to the Mayor, to call a city meeting:

* Abraham Bishop, Levi Ives, Samuel Darling, Isaac Gilbert, Wm. Thatcher, Wm. Baldwin, Rutherford Trowbridge.

† Elizur Goodrich, Obadiah Hotchkiss, James Hillhouse, David Daggett, Isaac Gilbert, Abraham Bishop, William Mix.

which was accordingly convened Nov. 30, 1820. And it was voted that "as the course proposed is respectful to the memory of the dead, and satisfactory to the feelings of surviving relatives, it is proper that this city assume the expense of accomplishing the same, to the extent of the sum proposed." A tax of one cent five mills on the dollar was accordingly levied on the grand list of the year 1819, to be applied as far as necessary, to the purpose proposed. The citizens of Fair Haven having a burying ground of their own, were exempted.

"After the committee* had made every preparation for the removal, PUBLIC SERVICE was held in the Centre Church on the morning of the 26th of June, 1821. A great concourse was assembled, and the exercises were performed in a very impressive and appropriate manner," by the Rev. clergy of the different denominations, and a funeral address prepared by Abraham Bishop, Esq., was pronounced, abounding in eloquent and impressive sentiments suited to the occasion.

It appears by the report of the superintending committee, of which James Hillhouse was chairman, that the lot purchased, was levelled, and laid out in conformity with the general plan of the burying ground, and was divided as follows:

Six city squares, numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. One square for Yale College. One for strangers. One for people of color.

"After the religious services in the church, the committee accompanied by the President and Officers of the college, commenced the work of removal, by conveying the monuments of officers and students to the new college square. Their next care was the removal, on application of survivors, of monuments into family lots in the new ground. All the other monuments were then removed to city square No. 1, on the north of which are two lots reserved for the Methodist and Baptist societies; the other societies having had lots assigned to them in the first distribution of the ground."

The burial of citizens not having family lots, was commenced at the S. W. corner of city square No. 2,—to be continued in regular order, till that square shall be filled, "when the burying in No. 3, will be commenced at the S. W. corner, and the same order without any variation, in the other city squares, and those allotted to college, to strangers, and to people of color."

The report concludes by stating, that the audited expense including the purchase of the lot, being \$1289 38, was fully paid by the city treasurer.

From these proceedings it seems it was understood at that time, that the city squares from No. 2, to No. 6, were intended for a public burying ground for the citizens not having family lots.

* James Hillhouse, Abraham Bishop, Samuel Merwin, Harry Crosswell, Nathaniel W. Taylor, Wm. Thatcher, Wm. Mix.

But by authority of a vote, passed at a city meeting, June, 1836, a part of this ground has been sold for private lots. It is to be regretted that any disposition of the ground should have been made, contrary to the original intention. But it was a natural mistake that this generation, not knowing or having forgotten the circumstances, and finding this property belonging to the city, should suppose they were consulting the public good, by selling lots to accommodate citizens who wished to purchase.

We understand the sales ceased after the subject was explained, and that the city clerk is ready to account for the avails, a part of which has been applied to the improvement of the ground.

It would be doing great injustice to the innocent purchasers of the lots, to disturb them in the possession, especially those who have buried relatives in them.

If the committee understand the facts, it would seem incumbent on the city to correct the error, by providing other ground, when wanted for a common burial place, equal to the portion sold.

As there has been some misapprehension as to the quantity sold, it may be well to state, that of the 3 acres, only about $\frac{1}{3}$ of an acre, or $\frac{1}{6}$ of the whole has been sold, and of this only a part of the deeds have been given. The lot for college, the lot for strangers, the lot for colored people, the city lot No. 1, for ancient monuments, have all been reserved entire for the objects intended. Of the 5 lots intended for a common burying ground, 2 remain untouched, 2 have more than $\frac{2}{3}$ of each unsold, and only 1 has been principally sold for private lots; so that more than $\frac{2}{3}$ of the common burying ground remains sacred to its original purpose, and contains unoccupied ground enough for a generation to come.

This proceeding is not without precedent. The triangular lot No. 47, appropriated for a common burial ground, in the original 10 acres, was divided and sold by a similar vote of a city meeting in 1831. This seems to have been necessary to preserve the symmetry of the ground after the addition of the 8 acres.

ACT OF INCORPORATION EXTENDED TO THE EIGHT ACRES, AND ASSENT OF THE PROPRIETORS.

It will be recollected that the act of incorporation, applied only to the original lot of ten acres first purchased. The proprietors of the eight acres, purchased in 1814, petitioned the General Assembly at their Session in May, 1821, to extend the same privileges to this addition. An act was accordingly passed, adding the said eight acres to the new burying ground, subject to the same conditions, and regulations, and entitled to the same privileges and exemptions; and making the petitioners and purchasers members of the corporation, on the same terms and conditions

provided in the original act of incorporation. "*Provided* that this act should not take effect till the proprietors of the new burying ground should signify their assent."

The whole ground since that time, has for all practical purposes, been considered and used as one united burial ground; but the required assent of the proprietors was not legally given till May 25th of the present year.

A meeting was legally warned and held at the town clerk's office May 25, 1839, and the following resolutions were adopted.

"Whereas, at a General Assembly of the state of Connecticut, held in and for said state in May, 1821: Upon the petition of the proprietors of eight acres of land adjoining the new burying ground in the city of New Haven, bounded east on said burying ground, south on Grove street, and by highways on other sides:

It was resolved by said assembly, "that said eight acres of land described as aforesaid, be and the same is hereby added to said burying ground, subject to the same rules and regulations, and entitled to the same privileges and exemptions; and that the petitioners and other purchasers shall become members of said corporation, on the terms and conditions provided in said resolve."

"Provided this resolve shall not take effect, until the proprietors of the new burying ground, in New Haven shall have signified their assent thereto."

"*Now therefore*, in order that said resolve shall take effect:—

"*Voted*, that the proprietors of the new burying ground do assent, and they do hereby signify their assent to said resolve, and approbation thereof, passed as aforesaid at the May session of the Assembly, 1821;—and agree that the said eight acres become part, and the same is hereby made part and parcel of the said new burying ground in New Haven, and entitled to all the privileges thereof;—and assent that the proprietors of the said eight acres be and they are hereby made members of this corporation.

"*Voted*, that the proprietors of the said eight acres be and they are hereby exempted from all liability for any debts or expenses now owing by this corporation.

"*Voted*, that this corporation does not assume or agree to pay any debts or expenses heretofore incurred on account of said eight acres."

At the same meeting your committee was appointed to inquire into the state of the burying ground, and to consider the propriety of repairing and improving it, with power to add to their numbers, and to call on the clerk to warn another meeting.

The whole ground as enlarged by different purchases, and diminished by the roads around it, now contains $17\frac{3}{4}$ acres. It has two gates, each opening into an alley 30 feet wide; nine parallel alleys 24 feet wide; and four cross alleys 18 feet wide. The regular plots are 180 feet by 60, each divided into twenty lots

30 by 18, with the names of the proprietors and numbers on the railings. The total number of lots is about 700.

A committee was appointed in April, 1832, to extend the tiers northward, by laying out new lots; and in January, 1833, Elisha Munson, Daniel Brown 2d, and Anthony P. Sanford, were appointed to have the general superintendence of the ground, who have from time to time, laid out and enclosed new lots, and made repairs to this day. Mr. Munson has been agent or Clerk from the beginning. He has aided the committee in their investigations in a most obliging manner, and communicated much valuable information.

In looking over the records of these transactions, the committee cannot forbear to remark, that they have been deeply impressed with a sense of the propriety, the liberality, and public spirit manifested throughout. We see every where the greatest respect for the memory of the dead, and for the feelings of the living; nowhere a spirit of gain or private advantage; a cheerful expenditure for the public good, from which there was neither expected nor realized any private emolument; and the most liberal appropriation for those objects which were commended by considerations of decency or humanity. The religious societies, the clergy, the college, and its president, the poor, the colored people, and the stranger, dying within our gates, were all remembered, and at different times provided for. We cannot pass over the names of these men, many of whom have gone down to the grave which they had provided for others, and some of whom remain still among us, without paying this slight tribute of respect and honor to their wise, liberal, and Christian policy, in providing a burial place, which, as expressed in their own record, "from its retired situation, should be better calculated to impress the mind with a solemnity becoming the repository of the dead."

In thus honoring all who participated in these transactions, we cannot forbear to dwell for a moment, on the character of that man, who was the projector and leader of the whole; whose name stands at the head of each list of the thirty two, who made the first and second purchase: who in times of discouragement took the whole burden upon himself, and expended large sums which were not fully refunded 30 years after; who from beginning to end watched over all.—He sleeps in his own burying ground—a memorable example of what a good citizen can accomplish who looks beyond the narrow limits of personal and temporary interest, and sees his own good in the good of his fellow men. This community would honor themselves by erecting a public monument to his memory. But he needs it not: his works are his monument. As long as New Haven remains what it is; as long as these majestic elms wave their living arches to shade the head

of the weary at noon day ; as long as Yale College, to which he was an efficient and never failing friend, continues to be the glory of his native state ; as long as Connecticut can boast of a more solid provision for universal education than any other state ; as long as the memory of an upright man, a public benefactor, shall be held in honor among men—JAMES HILLHOUSE *will not be forgotten*. The works of his hands are all around us, and they follow him to his rest from his labors : His spirit, ever active, ever watchful for the public good, untiring and invincible in its pursuit, breathes every where throughout our city, our State, and our institutions, commanding us with sacred authority to do our duty.

The elder portion of our fellow citizens are better acquainted with these facts than we can be ; and we respectfully request them to correct any errors we may have committed in the narration. It is important that the facts should be fully ascertained before the generation, which alone understands them, passes away. The present generation need information. Besides the error of selling the city lots, already alluded to, the want of information is shown by the fact, that the act of 1821, adding the eight acres to the new burying ground, was never assented to till May 25th of the present year. During these 18 years, the private lots in this part of the burying ground have been liable to be attached and sold for debt, and we understand this has happened to some of them.

It may not be decorous for us to speak of the living ; but the thanks of this generation are due to several of our respected fellow citizens, for the part they have taken in these transactions. For the benefit of those who wish to gain more particular information, we would refer to the Hon. Elizur Goodrich, Hon. Simeon Baldwin, and Elisha Munson, Esq., all of whom have been conversant with the facts from the beginning, having been Clerks of the Corporation, and having often acted on various important committees ; also to Abraham Bishop and James Goodrich, Esquires, who were conspicuous in the purchase of the eight acres, and the removal of the monuments, and have devoted much time and labor to the improvement of the ground.

If the present generation, guided by the example of their fathers, shall manifest a similar spirit, in preserving and improving what has been so wisely and liberally begun, our burial ground will continue to be what it once was, and what it ought to be, an honor and ornament to the city.

PRESENT CONDITION.

Having submitted the past history of the New Haven burying ground, the committee would next take a view of its present condition.

The ground is imperfectly enclosed. The front fence on Grove street, and about 200 feet on Ashmun street, is in good repair, but is not, either as a protection or as an ornament, such as the place demands. The east, and most of the west side, have a fence old and decayed, any part of which may be easily broken through or removed, and entrances are made wherever the convenience or caprice of any individual suggests. The north, and half of the west side, have only a common rail or pale fence, scarcely a defense against animals. The fences are altogether weak, decayed, and totally inadequate to protect the ground.

The consequence is, that the ground instead of being a quiet, sacred place, as was intended, has become a thoroughfare, through which persons pass in all directions, to different parts of the town. Paths are made across private lots and over graves: to open which, not only the outside fence has been broken through in various places, but the division railings have been broken, and even monuments have been mutilated or thrown down.

Being open at all places, and at all times, it is the resort of the idle, the thoughtless, and the vicious, at all hours of the day and night, and especially on the Sabbath, for mere amusement or for worse purposes.

Shrubbery, trees, and monuments, are so liable to be injured, that most persons are deterred from attempting improvement on their private lots, and a great portion of the ground is entirely destitute of trees, shrubs, or anything whatever to shade the walks, to shelter the grass so as to preserve its verdure in dry seasons, or to impart a general appearance of care, cultivation, and decent ornament, becoming such a place.

In consequence of the wise and liberal provisions already detailed, the ground when first laid out, had a deservedly high reputation, compared with other cemeteries at that time, and was frequently visited by strangers and admired as a model. But from the neglect of the improvements already commenced, and the want of that cultivation which might have been expected, as well as from the far more tasteful and expensive embellishments bestowed on other cemeteries, our ground has not only lost its celebrity, but is visited by strangers with great disappointment.

Its effect upon strangers is well described in the Journal of a foreign traveller, a gentleman of great taste and feeling, who says in his account of New Haven: "We visited the burial ground. It is considered the most beautiful in this country, and a traveller following this impression calls it the *"Pere la Chaise"*

of America. No two things can be more unlike than it and Pere la Chaise. The fine trees which abound elsewhere in New Haven, are here excluded. Nothing appears but some straight poplars, with their heads dying off, and which least of all are suited to a spot already too formal, by its flat surface and angular lines. Judicious planting might yet make it what it claims to be. As it is, that taste must be strangely perverted which should prefer this cemetery to that of Mount Auburn."—*Rev. Dr. Reed.*

A similar disappointment has been frequently expressed, by those who have recently visited the ground, under the impressions derived from its former celebrity.

ENCLOSURE, GATEWAY, &c.

The committee are *unanimously of the opinion, that it is indispensable to any successful improvement of the ground, that it should be enclosed by a strong durable fence.*

Several plans for a fence have been considered, and there has been some difference of opinion among the committee as to the kind that should be adopted. All agree that it should be the best fence, both for durability and ornament, which the funds that may be raised shall justify; such a fence as will effectually protect the ground on all sides, prevent its being a thoroughfare and place of idle amusement or of vicious resort, and preserve the trees, shrubbery, monuments, and other embellishments from injury.

Some have proposed a solid stone wall, of East Haven stone, laid in mortar and faced both sides, 8 feet high above ground, and 18 inches thick. The principal objection to such a wall is its expense, which has been estimated at about \$10,000. Its durability and substantial good taste are urged in its favor. It may also be added that some of the founders of the cemetery have expressed their opinion in its favor, by a note on the map in the following words: "Perhaps in more prosperous times the citizens may encounter the expense of a *stone* wall in lieu of the present *wooden* enclosure."

Some have been in favor of a close board fence, with ornamental piers and cornices and corner towers, in the Egyptian style. But as such a fence would be liable to warp and shrink in the sun, and to be strained and injured by the winds; it would require frequent repairs and ultimately be almost as expensive as stone.

Taking into consideration expense, durability, and ornament, the committee have almost unanimously agreed to recommend an open baluster fence as represented in the drawing.

It is proposed to make this of strong pointed pickets 2½ inches square, set in strong railings and supported by substantial cedar

posts ; to paint the pickets and railings black or bronze color, to have posts at proper distances in the shape of obelisks, corner piers, and an ornamental gateway in the Egyptian style, as represented in the drawing. The whole to be painted and sanded in such a manner as to resemble an iron fence, with stone posts and piers.

Such a fence would cost about \$1 25 per foot, or \$4,500 for the whole, exclusive of the gateway,—the distance round the ground being 3670 feet.

This would be less expensive than the stone wall, more durable, and less liable to be injured by the sun and winds, than the board fence. The black paint, it is well known, preserves wood a long time, and requires renewing less frequently than other paints. It is thought also that an open fence would be more ornamental than a close one ; that it would afford a better view of the shrubbery and trees within ; and be better suited to the airy rural style of architecture and gardening peculiar to New Haven*.

It is thought that an ornamental gateway similar to the one represented in the drawing, would be appropriate for either fence, as an index to point out the entrance, and to impart a tasteful and imposing effect to the whole design.

It is proposed that this gateway should be the only entrance to the ground, and that it should be so constructed as to furnish a house for a hearse, and a residence, or at least a lodge for a keeper, who might be procured by a small addition to the income of the sexton. The expense of the gateway, hearse-house, and keeper's residence, as exhibited in the drawing, has been estimated, in wood, painted and sanded so as to resemble stone, at \$2000 ; in East Haven stone, well hammered and faced like St. Paul's Chapel, at about \$3,500.

This arrangement is thought important ; there being but one place of ingress or egress, and this constantly under the eye of the keeper or his family, would be a great check to mischief. The keeper's business would be to take care of the ground, to cultivate the trees and shrubs, to notice any injury and make immediate repairs, to admit visitors, to open and close the gates, and to see that the regulations are observed.

It has been suggested that the gates should be opened at sunrise, and closed at sunset ; and not opened on the Sabbath during hours of divine service, except for funeral obsequies.

* An experienced builder has suggested to dispense with the cedar posts, and to substitute iron braces fastened in one end of a rough block of stone under ground, the fence resting on the other end. As there would be no decay of posts ; and the wood being painted black, the whole would be very strong and durable.

We understand a brick wall on stone foundations 5 feet high and 8 inches thick, has been estimated at \$1 92 per foot ; which would make the whole wall round the ground cost a little over \$7000.

It might also be necessary to add some legislative sanctions enacting penalties for any trespasses or violation of the regulations. Trespassers at Mount Auburn are liable to a fine of \$50.

DIVISION RAILINGS.

The committee find that the division railings are in many places decayed or broken, and recommend among the first things, that the railings be repaired or made new where necessary, and be painted, numbered and lettered with the names of the proprietors.

PLANTING TREES AND SHRUBS.

It is the opinion of the committee, that after the ground is enclosed in such a manner as to protect the contemplated improvements, nothing can contribute so much to the beauty and sacredness of the spot, as judicious plantations of trees and shrubs. Such plantations always strike the eye with pleasure in any ground, but seem peculiarly suited to the quietness, and solemnity appropriate to the repose of the dead.

The planting of trees around the grave, is a most ancient custom. The tomb of Sarah and the Patriarchs was in a field of trees.—Gen. xxiii, 17. Deborah “was buried beneath Bethel, under an oak.”—Gen. xxxv, 8. The bones of Saul and his sons were buried “under a tree at Jabesh.”—1 Sam. xxxi, 13. Manasseh and Amon were buried in the garden of Uzza.—2 Kings, xxi, 18–26. It was customary when a sepulchre was not in a garden, to surround the grave of the dead with fragrant herbs, flowers, &c. “that the clods of the valley shall be sweet unto him.”—*Calmet*. “The Greeks and Romans often selected the secluded recesses of wooded heights and shaded valleys for sepulchres.” The Turks plant a cypress at the head and foot of the grave, and all refined nations have endeavored to cheer the darkness of the tomb, by the freshness of green trees and the lightsome beauty of flowers.

The most celebrated cemeteries in our times, derive their greatest attractions from these sources. Those who are familiar with the descriptions of the Turkish burying grounds on the Bosphorus, need not be reminded, that although these grounds are filled with gilded marbles and gorgeous displays of oriental art, yet the greatness of their effect, is owing chiefly to the dark interminable groves of cypress, which shed their sombre shade for miles over this vast city of the dead.

The celebrated “Pere la Chaise” of Paris also, though adorned with innumerable monuments of every conceivable form and degree of splendor, yet, as described by a recent traveller,* it is “so

* Rev. Dr. Humphrey.

thickly set and so darkly shaded with cypress and other evergreens, that one may wander and meditate for days and weeks in this great field of death, without being aware of its extent." Mount Auburn, in our own country, is less magnificent, but not less interesting, and is probably more picturesque, than either. It has a great number and variety of extensive and beautiful monuments, but its great ornament is its large and beautiful grove. This fine native forest stretching over upwards of 100 acres, with every variety of surface found in hill and valley, and with every kind of tree and shrub, threaded by numberless winding paths, has a natural beauty which its fine monuments and other works of taste may embellish, but can never equal.

We cannot expect to rival the splendor of the Turkish cemetery, or of "Pere la Chaise," or Mount Auburn. It would be in bad taste to attempt it. We have not the extent of ground; the variety of surface, the wealth, or the multitude, of a great city, that contribute to swell the greatness of these celebrated places.

But we can show in our ground a tender care for the dead : we can protect it ; we can shade it in summer and shelter it in winter ; we can make green its paths and make peaceful its borders ; we can cheer the loneliness and desolation of the grave by the verdure of foliage, and the bloom and fragrance of ever varying flowers ; we can comfort the mourner, by making the spot where the object of his affections is buried, "the field of peace," and make the house of the dead, a place of soothing and instructive, though mournful meditation to the living.

The present arrangement of the grounds does not admit of a thick grove over the whole, as at Mount Auburn. The committee therefore in view of our wants, and our means, would suggest :

First, The planting a thick belt of trees around the whole ground in the space next the outer wall.

This belt should be as wide as the nature of the ground admits ;* the trees should be thick as in a natural forest, and should be of the various kinds that thrive in our soil and climate ; but should have a large proportion, say one half or two thirds, of evergreens—such as the pine, silver fir, hemlock, spruce, white cedar, larch, &c.

The advantage of evergreens is obvious ; they would form a thick rich border, which would be an ornament and protection at

* There is an open space around most of the ground from 24 to 30 feet wide, which admits of a belt next the fence 15 feet wide, a passage about 10 feet wide, and a row of trees and border of shrubbery near the lots. This would afford a passage for the hearse, and a shaded walk round the ground, the intermingling boughs forming a leafy arch over head.

On a part of the west side, this space is interrupted, where a few lots approach the fence. It would be a pleasant variety there to plant only a hedge of evergreens next the fence, which might be diversified by an occasional group of trees or shrubs in the adjoining alleys.

all seasons, when other trees are naked, and their dark foliage and solitary forms are so strikingly adapted to the object, that both poetry and ancient usage have consecrated them as appropriate emblems of the grave.

These should be interspersed with other forest trees, which, by their flowers or foliage or changing hues at different seasons, would give life and variety to the general effect.*

Such a belt of dense and variegated foliage, stretching round so wide a compass, and presenting here and there a glimpse of the monuments within, would in itself be one of the most pleasing ornaments of our rural city; while by shutting out all external objects, it would give a peaceful, Sabbath like quietness within, harmonizing with the spot "where the weary are at rest."

Perhaps at first view the expense of such a belt may appear great; but on examination it will be found small compared with the enclosing wall.

Trees can be obtained in large quantities at a less price than is generally supposed. Evergreens from Maine at \$6 per hundred, and most forest trees from English or our own nurseries for less, say from \$2 to \$5 per hundred. At this price the trees would be only from 3 to 5 feet high. There may be an advantage in planting larger trees when they stand singly and unprotected; but a thicket like the one proposed always looks well when only a few feet high, resembling for the first year or two, dense shrubbery or a waving field of corn. And besides it is pretty well ascertained that if the ground be properly prepared, a plantation of very young and vigorous trees, will produce a fine grove sooner than older ones, which are necessarily much checked by the loss of branches and roots in transplanting.

It has been suggested that such a thicket might be produced with very little expense, by scattering the seeds of the maple, pine, fir, hemlock, &c. on the ground well prepared. They might be thinned by transplanting to other parts of the ground, or sold to pay expenses. Sir Walter Scott produced a thicket from seeds in a few years. It is a common method of raising forests in England.

Second, Outside.—The committee find that a row of trees has been planted in the street around a part of the ground on the outside, and suggest that this row be completed around the whole.

Third, Interior.—A part of the alleys were formerly planted on each side with poplars, most of which are now living, and as

* Among these, the maple, linden, sassafras, aspen, silver leaf poplar, tulip tree, beech, birch, ash, horse chestnut, mountain ash, walnut, oak, and elm, might all be used with advantage to enliven or soften, or darken the outline. The willow, locust, ailanthus, &c., being of rapid growth, but some of them short lived, might be interspersed among the more slow growing trees, which would take their places when they fail.

many of them have been improved in their appearance by lopping, it might be well to lop the rest and let them remain until something better should grow up to take their places.

The extent of what is to be done within, will of course depend on the amount of funds. But it seems desirable to carry out the original plan of lining all the alleys on both sides with trees, for instance the two principal avenues, with linden or oak; the others with maple, fir, larch, abele, willow, &c. as shall produce the best effect.

It would add much to the beauty of this plan, to intersperse the alleys as far as the openings will admit, with borders of shrubbery, or hedges. Such borders might be made at a trifling expense, by purchasing by the thousand the various shrubs sold at the nurseries for hedges, as hawthorns, various kinds of native thorn, (many of them beautiful flowering shrubs,) prim, tri-thorned acacia or yellow locust, lilac, syringa, arbor vitæ, &c.; these may be purchased at from \$3 to \$5 per thousand. Much of this shrubbery might be obtained without any expense at all, by making a public request, that all who had any surplus shrubbery in their gardens, should send it to adorn the burying ground. In such a plan, nothing which would grow, would come amiss. This would be a most simple and pleasing mode of enlisting the feelings of the whole community in the design, and would operate to cherish those associations and affections which a whole people ought to feel, in a design common and sacred to all.

Fourth, Preparing the Ground.—The committee would further suggest, that to whatever extent this planting may be carried, the ground be prepared in such a manner that the trees and shrubs will rapidly flourish. Such plantations, in the present condition of the soil, would almost certainly result in great loss and disappointment, if not in total failure. Many of the trees would die, and most of the rest have a slow, sickly growth.

To ensure success, the ground should be prepared by deep digging or trenching, and strengthened by a plentiful dressing of compost, prepared of sods, clay, peat, turf, street and stable manure, &c. Many of the materials may be obtained by the canal at a moderate expense, and should be collected early in a mass that it may ferment and decompose before used.

The whole belt of 15 feet wide, contains 1 acre, 43 rods. A double border on each alley 4 feet wide, half as much more; making in all about 2 acres.

The expense of trenching is \$90 per acre: the expense of a thorough dressing of compost \$60 per acre: so that the whole expense of trenching and dressing would be about \$150 per acre, or \$300 for the whole.

This is an unusual expense for planting trees, but those who have tried it, well know that it is money most profitably expen-

ded. No one who has not seen the effect, can be fully aware of the luxuriant growth thus produced.

Fifth.—When these public improvements commence, private improvements will follow.

Let every proprietor, by precept and example, contribute to carry out the general design, by keeping his own ground in order, and by embellishing it with shrubbery, hedges, railings, turfing, monuments, and such ornaments as his taste shall suggest.

The whole expense, if fully carried out as suggested, has been estimated as follows :

| | |
|--|--------|
| Trees for belt around the whole, - - - - | \$350 |
| Completing row in streets, - - - - | 50 |
| Four hundred large trees to plant alleys, - - | 200 |
| Borders of shrubbery and hedges in alleys, - - | 100 |
| Trenching two acres, - - - - | 180 |
| Compost for do. - - - - | 120 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$1000 |
| Allow for labor of planting and contingent expenses, - | 500 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$1500 |
| Fence around the whole ground, - - - - | 4500 |
| Gateway and keeper's residence, - - - - | 2000 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total, - - - - | \$8000 |

The committee submit their plan for consideration. They do not suppose it to be perfect ; they expect it to be improved by the suggestions which it will call forth. The consideration of this plan may lead to the adoption of some other, different and better. Whether the whole, or a part of this design, or an entirely new one shall be adopted, the committee will cordially unite with their fellow citizens in any scheme which shall meet general approbation ; and will not consider their labors lost, if in any manner they shall contribute to the protection and improvement of the burial ground.

It is believed there is a general feeling in favor of enclosing the ground in some manner, and of judicious planting of trees and shrubs.

The committee commenced their deliberations by conversing only of partial repairs and improvements. At first they thought only of a new fence in the rear, then on the three sides ; and finally, after further reflection, they thought it best to propose a complete and thorough enclosure and improvement of the ground. They think the community, after reflection, will come to the same result, and will prefer to take time and make thorough

work. It is believed there will be far more spirit, and far more probability of success, in undertaking a complete, than a partial improvement, and far greater satisfaction with the result.

The principal objection to the thorough accomplishment of the whole work, will probably be the expense. But a little reflection will show, that the expense proposed is a small matter for *such* a community, for *such* an object.

Within the last twenty five years the people of New Haven have built 9 churches, which together cost about \$150,000: and to their honor be it spoken, they cheerfully support public worship in them all, at an annual expense of nearly \$15,000. If to this be added the expense of schools, the city, town, and other expenditures, the administration of law and government, the annual contributions for foreign or domestic charities, the sum proposed is almost nothing—but a drop in the bucket.

A few years ago it was necessary to raise \$20,000 to secure the splendid mineral cabinet for Yale College. It was secured: and the inscription on its walls will declare to future times, that it was chiefly done by the "CITIZENS OF NEW HAVEN."

A few years later it was necessary to sustain Yale College by increasing its funds. The citizens of New Haven again had the spirit and ability to raise over \$20,000.

Compared with what New Haven has done, and can do again, the sum proposed is indeed a trifle. There is no doubt the money can be raised and no one feel the poorer. Whether this shall be done by subscription, or tax, or partly by both, the community will decide. In whatever manner it shall be attempted, it will make the burden (if it can be called a burden) still lighter, to make it payable in two or three installments.

We have received this ground for the smallest possible expense. Other cemeteries have been highly adorned by the funds raised from the sale of lots at high prices. The least price of a lot in Mount Auburn, containing only 300 square feet, is \$80; choice lots are much higher. In Greenwood, the price for 300 square feet is \$100. The prices in our ground have been from \$5 to \$20, for lots of 540 square feet—almost double the size. Our ground has been conducted with great propriety on a simple republican principle: the prices have been kept low, so that every poor man could own a lot. We have received the lots for a trifle. Shall we be unwilling to add a little to this trifle to enhance the value and safety of our possession?

This ground has been presented to us by the wise and liberal care of a former generation, inferior in wealth and numbers to ours. Shall we not act in honor of their memories, and for the benefit of the present and future generations, with an enlarged public spirit proportioned to our increased resources? Other places

in various parts of the country are bestowing great care upon their public cemeteries.* Shall New Haven, which once took the lead on this subject, be left far behind the spirit of the age by the fault of this generation?

We are now called upon, not for a church, or a part of the city, or the college, or a distant charity, in which a part of us only are directly interested; but for our common burial ground in which we all have an interest. We are called upon to protect the ashes of the dead; to cherish the place where our relatives and ourselves may rest in peace. We all have fathers or mothers, wives or husbands, brothers or sisters, or children, over whose graves we would not willingly have the foot of the wanton or wicked rudely to trample. We all look to the grave as our long home; who can say he has no interest there, or can grudge the trifle that may make it peaceful and pleasant because it is for another more than for himself?

Are there any advantages in such improvements as are contemplated, which call upon us to act as a city for the public good?

Any one who has been accustomed to look upon our public squares and shaded streets with pleasure, and who would regret to see these green retreats converted into plains of sand, must be sensible that such improvements as are proposed would be a great ornament to the city, and a striking proof of its taste and public spirit. The complete enclosure of the grounds, the massive gateway, the continuous screen of foliage around the whole, the verdure of the trees and shrubbery within, the secluded walks and shaded alleys, the number and variety of the monuments, and the many names of the illustrious dead, would make our burial ground a place of great interest to strangers, and of grateful resort and solemn musing to our own citizens. He must have

* The following extract from the New Haven Palladium is an evidence of the spirit of the times.

"*Cemeteries.*—The ladies of Hingham, Mass., have realized nearly \$500 from a Fair, which was held with a view of defraying the expense of some contemplated improvements in the town burying ground. We suggest to the ladies of our own town the propriety of taking similar steps for the improvement of our City Cemetery. Our burying ground, which was once thought, and justly so, considering the indifference then generally felt about such matters, to be a credit and honor to the city, is no longer so now, as all will acknowledge who are at all aware of the excellent taste and spirit which prevails in very many other places in regard to these matters. In New York City they are laying out an extensive cemetery, called Greenwood, which, it is said, may even excel Mount Auburn! In Baltimore, a new one is got up under the name of Green Mount Cemetery. And in Philadelphia another celebrated one named "Laurel Hill." From the Boston Transcript we learn that at Dorchester, the ancient burying ground has been strikingly beautified. At Milton, in the same State, they voted \$500 in town meeting for the improvement of their grave yard. Worcester and Taunton, says the same paper, have got up fine cemeteries. So they have at Bangor, Rochester, and many other places. We trust we shall be able to say as much of New Haven ere long; and that the silent mansions of the dead will receive some part of the attentions that are here devoted to the residences of the living.

a bad heart who can visit such a spot without reflections calculated to make him a wiser and better man. That community must be far less moral and enlightened than ours, which will not be improved by the silent and impressive lessons taught in such a place.

Such improvements would tend much to cultivate and diffuse the growing taste for ornamental gardening, which is not only the most innocent and rational of all recreations, but contributes much to the health, the comfort, the refinement of manners and morals, and the general happiness and prosperity of society. Many communities, among refined nations, wisely provide large gardens or public grounds to promote these objects alone: viewing their effects upon the character of the people as a matter of political and moral economy.

Such improvements are not less a matter of public policy and patriotism with us. In numbers and wealth our city is small; but as a place of education, its influence is wide as our country. Every addition we make to its attractions as a nursery of knowledge, refinement, morals, and religion, is adding to its prosperity, its reputation, and its influence. The young minds gathered here for nurture, are imbibing, not merely from the ordinary means of instruction, but from the external objects around them, those tastes and feelings, and principles, which will operate for weal or for woe, not upon themselves only, but upon this great nation, whose destinies are to be controlled by its *educated mind* as surely as there is truth in the axiom that "knowledge is power."

In neglecting our burial place, are we not neglecting our duty as a religious community? It scarcely seems to be a question to be asked, whether it is the duty of an enlightened and christian people to pay a sacred respect to the memory of the dead. Next to the worship of the Supreme Being, there is probably no duty more universally acknowledged by all civilized nations, or more carefully observed even by the rudest tribes. The neglect of it has always been considered a flagrant trait of barbarism. Among the earliest records of history or poetry, we find this a powerful and universal sentiment. The bones and the ashes of the dead have ever been regarded with sacred and tender respect. It is a sentiment to which every heart yields a ready and voluntary assent.

The story of Priam supplicating for the dead body of his son, or of Æneas performing long and solemn rites to the shades of his father, and the thousand similar passages, are but the poetical representation of a universal feeling.

The catacombs and the pyramids of the ancients; the mausoleums and sepulchres of rock; the embalming and anointing with perfumes and precious ointment; the urns of marble, silver and gold; the garlands and flowers strewed over the grave; are all the symbols of a feeling as universal as man.

This was not confined to heathen nations. The ancient Hebrews were extremely careful on this subject, and considered the privation of the rites of sepulture, as one of the greatest dishonors and calamities that could befall any man. The Bible is every where full of allusions to this subject. Abraham bought the field in Machpelah for 400 shekels of silver: "and the field, and the cave therein, and *all the trees that were in the field, that were in the borders round about, were made sure* unto Abraham for a possession of a burial place." It was preserved by his posterity, and in it were buried Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, and Jacob and Leah.

The Jews provided and preserved sepulchres, with great care, in the fields, in their gardens, under trees, in hewn rocks, in mountains, and in houses built expressly for the purpose. "Their Rabbins taught that it is not lawful to demolish tombs, nor to disturb the repose of the dead by burying another body in the same grave, nor to carry an aqueduct, nor highway across a place of burial, nor to go and gather wood there, nor to suffer cattle to feed there."* They called the tomb, "the house of the living," to show their belief in the immortality of the soul, and the resurrection of the body. Their respect for the sepulchres of their great men and prophets was very great. They built synagogues near them, and went to pray there, and to worship.† Though they reviled and persecuted the living, they "garnished the sepulchres of the righteous, and builded the tombs of the prophets." The kings of Israel and Judah had tombs in the royal gardens of Jerusalem and Samaria. The Savior himself was anointed with spices and precious ointment, and wrapped in fine linen, and laid in a new tomb hewn out of the rock in the garden of Joseph of Arimathea. All Christendom has paid reverential honors to the Holy Sepulchre, and in all times has inculcated a pious care for the dead as a religious duty.

It is not for us who enjoy the full light of christian civilization, to neglect this opportunity of testifying our respect for a sentiment as ancient as the world, and as universal as the human race; especially when it comes down to us sanctioned by that only true religion which teaches the great truths of the immortality of the soul, and the resurrection of the body. The sublime revelation, that these earthly bodies shall become celestial bodies, and this mortal shall put on immortality, sheds a new and awful lustre over the sanctity of the grave.

* Calmet.

† Ib.

All which is respectfully submitted by your committee.

DENISON OLMSTED.
ELI IVES.
SAMUEL ST. JOHN.
EZRA HOTCHKISS.
ELISHA DICKERMAN.
WM. W. BOARDMAN.
ELI W. BLAKE.
A. H. MALBY.
ELI B. AUSTIN.
HEZEKIAH AUGUR.
CHARLES MONSON.
HENRY HUGGINS.
AUGUSTUS R. STREET.
A. N. SKINNER.
HENRY PECK.
JOHN BEACH.

PHILIP S. GALPIN.
JOSEPH E. SHEFFIELD.
LEONARD BACON.
JAMES BREWSTER.
WM. H. JONES.
ELIAS GILBERT.
BENJ. M. SHERMAN.
ITHEL TOWN.
HENRY AUSTIN.
ROBERT BAKEWELL.
NEWTON WHEELER.
STILES FRENCH.
WM. B. BRISTOL.
ROBINSON HINMAN.
EDWARD C. HERRICK.
BENJ. SILLIMAN, Jr.

The committee, originally large, has been from time to time increased, in order to obtain a full expression of public feeling. Several other gentlemen were appointed, but as they were prevented from attending the deliberations, the publishing committee do not feel at liberty to annex their names to the report without their consent, though some of them have been frequently consulted, and most of them have expressed an interest in the subject.

At a meeting of "*the Proprietors of the New Burying Ground in New Haven*," legally warned and held at the City Hall, in said New Haven, on the 14th day of September, 1839:—
SIMEON BALDWIN, Esq. was chosen Chairman.

After a verbal explanation of the proceedings of the Committee on improving the Burying Ground, presenting an outline of their Report, and an exhibition of the design for the Gate, Fence, and Shrubbery, the following resolutions were adopted.

"*Resolved*, That in the opinion of this meeting, measures ought to be taken for the protection and improvement of the New Haven Burying Ground.

"*Whereas*, The subjects proposed in the report of the committee are of great importance and general interest, and upon which every citizen ought to be well informed :

"*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to make arrangements for a general meeting of the Proprietors, and of all who feel an interest on the subject, to take the matter into further consideration, and adopt such measures thereon as shall be thought proper.

"*Resolved*, That the former committee be requested to perfect their plans, and mature their report, for further consideration, and for publication in a pamphlet form, to be circulated among the citizens.

"*Voted*, That said committee be appointed by the Chairman of the meeting."

It was accordingly done—and the following gentlemen were duly appointed, viz.

James Goodrich,
William Mix,
Philip S. Galpin,
William H. Jones,
Augustus R. Street,
Joseph E. Sheffield,

William H. Ellis,
Noyes Darling,
Eli B. Austin,
Eli W. Blake,
Ezra Hotchkiss,

"*Voted*, That the representation of the front view of the Burying Ground, together with plans and other views of said ground which are now exhibited in the City Hall, be placed in some public building or suitable room for the inspection of the citizens and others who may feel interested in the subject."

A true extract of record certified by

ELISHA MUNSON, *Clerk*.

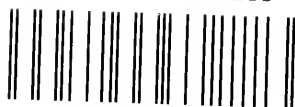


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